

## A NEW *PASPALUM* (POACEAE) FROM MESOAMERICA

The enormous pantropical and warm temperate genus *Paspalum* includes at least 400 species (Chase, 1929). *Paspalum* is recognized by the inflorescence of one or more unilateral racemes, the panicoid spikelets being plano-convex, often lacking lower glumes, and occurring solitary or in pairs on the lower side of the raceme rachis, with their upper glumes and fertile lemmas turned toward the center line of the rachis. The species described occurs on Cerro Uyuca, Honduras, an ancient volcanic peak near the town of El Zamorano. Because of its proximity to the Standley Herbarium of the Escuela Agricola Panamericana, Uyuca has been thoroughly botanized and is the type locality for a number of new species.

***Paspalum uyucensis* Pohl, sp. nov.** TYPE: Honduras, 26 July 1951, Freytag s.n. Herbarium of G. B. Van Schaack 3274 (holotype, MO-3212543).

Gramen perenne caespitosum rhizomata curta, nodosa; vaginae infernae pilosae, superiores glabrae; nodi retrorsi-barbati; ligula truncata membranosa 0.5–0.8 mm longa; laminae planae, papilloso-pilosae, 8–15 cm × 8–11 mm; vagina ultima sine lamina. Inflorescentia terminalis, 6–9 cm alta; racemi 4–6, ascendentes, laxi; rachis triquetra, ciliata, tenuis. Spiculae binatim, 1.4–1.5 mm longae, obovatae 1.5–1.7:1, brunneolae; gluma inferna carens; gluma superna triplo-nervata sparsim appressi-pilosa; lemma infernum (sterile), triplo-nervatum; lemma supernum (fertile) 1.5 mm longum, stramineum; palea striatula.

Caespitose perennial from short knotty rhizomes; basal scales papillose-pilose; culms 40–65 cm tall, erect, the bases swollen; internodes glabrous; nodes retrorsely bearded. Lower sheaths papillose-pilose, keeled; upper sheaths glabrous, the uppermost elongated, bladeless. Ligule a truncate membrane, 0.5–0.8 mm long; blades loosely papillose-pilose on one or both surfaces, 8–15 cm by 8–11 mm, flat, the midrib prominent

beneath. Inflorescence terminal, 6–9 cm long, the peduncle slender, arcuate, exserted 5–12 cm; racemes 4–6, ascending or spreading, slender, 3–7 cm long; rachis triquetrous, ca. 0.3 mm wide, bearing scattered elongated hairs; pedicels usually somewhat united, the terminal one to 1 mm long. Spikelets paired, brownish purple, 1.4–1.5 mm long, obovate 1.5–1.7:1; lower glume absent; upper glume 3-nerved, sparsely appressed-pubescent, slightly shorter than the spikelet; lower lemma sterile, 3-nerved, glabrous; upper lemma fertile, 1.5 mm long, stramineous, elliptical 1.4:1; palea minutely striate; caryopsis elliptical 1.4:1, brownish.

*Other specimens examined.* HONDURAS. Cerro Uyuca, Freytag s.n., Herb. Van Schaack 3273 (MO-2311478); Cerro Monserrat, Castro 147 A (MO-2926547).

This species is presently known only from upper pine and cloud forests on Cerro Uyuca and Cerro Monserrat in central Honduras at elevations of 1,400–2,000 m.

*Paspalum uyucensis* belongs to the informal group *Caespitosa* of Chase (1929). It is closest to *P. umbratile* Chase, from which it differs in its bearded nodes, more numerous racemes, smaller, broader spikelets, and 3-nerved glume and lower lemma.

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### LITERATURE CITED

CHASE, A. 1929. The North American species of *Paspalum*. Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb. 28: 1–310.

—Richard W. Pohl, Professor of Botany and Curator of the Herbarium, Department of Botany, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011.